



Department of State

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R 061515Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2277
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
AMEMBASSY PORT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <u>RB</u>	DATE <u>25 JUN 1982</u>
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE _____	
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____	
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐	
DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASABLE ☒	
RELEASE ☐ LIMITED ☐	
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____	

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 3735

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, JM

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER MANLEY ON JAMAICAN POLITICAL SCENE

1. DURING MY CALL ON PRIME MINISTER MANLEY ON MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 3, CONVERSATION OPENED WITH HIS QUERY RE RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN UNITED STATES. WHEN THIS LED US TO DISCUSSION OF RESULTS OF RECENT POLLS, I USED OPPORTUNITY TO ASK HIS IMPRESSION OF "STRAW POLLS" WHICH PRESENTLY APPEARING IN THE DAILY GLEANER AND WHICH SUGGEST THAT PRIME MINISTER'S PARTY HAS NO ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY AS IT PREPARED FOR ELECTION. (WE PLAN REPORT POLLS, TOGETHER WITH COMMENT, WHEN THEY ARE ALL PUBLISHED.) MANLEY STATED THAT AS IN CASE AMERICAN POLLS, NUMBER OF "UNDECIDED" RESPONDENTS TO GLEANER POLL OF PARTICULAR INTEREST; THESE SUGGEST THAT THERE WILL BE A LARGE SWING VOTE HERE IN JAMAICA WHEN ACTUAL VOTING OCCURS. PRIME MINISTER ADDED THAT GLEANER POLL COINCIDES CLOSELY WITH PNP'S ASSESSMENT, BUT ADDED:---:IN CURST OF CANOIA:---:THAT PNP'S POLL SHOWED EVEN LARGER NUMBER OF "UNDECIDED" RESPONDENTS. QUICKLY ADDING A NOTE OF CONFIDENCE, HE EXPRESSED VIEW

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THAT PNP WAS GAINING AND IS, NOW IN FACT, STRONGER THAN THE POL
SUGGEST. THIS RESULTS FROM RECENT DECLINE IN VIOLENCE.

2. I THEN ASKED WHETHER STATE OF EMERGENCY WILL
BE CONTINUED THROUGH THE ELECTIONS. THE PRIME
MINISTER REPLIED THAT IT MUCH TOO EARLY TO SAY.
HOWEVER, HE HAS NO DOUBT THAT SOE IS WORKING,
MAINLY BECAUSE 170 OF THE ISLAND'S MOST VIOLENT
OUTRAGED (INCLUDING PNP GUNMEN "WHO HAD BEEN
ENGAGED IN EXTRACURRICULA ACTIVITIES") HAD
BEEN LOCKED UP. HE ADDED THAT HE COULD NOT AND
WOULD NOT RELEASE THESE CRIMINALS. (COMMENT:
100 TOTAL NOW UNDER SOE DETENTION.) HE ALSO SAID
STATE OF EMERGENCY IS COMPATIBLE WITH FREE
ELECTIONS, AS EVIDENCED BY OPPOSITION'S MANY SUCCESSFUL
POLITICAL RALLIES.

END

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